

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

In re:

THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND
MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO,

as representative of

THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, *et al.*

Debtors.¹

PROMESA
Title III

Case No. 17 BK 3283-LTS
(Jointly Administered)

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In re:

THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND
MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO

as representative of

PUERTO RICO ELECTRIC POWER
AUTHORITY,

Debtor.

PROMESA
Title III

Case No. 17 BK 4780-LTS

**VICTOR I RODRIGUEZ PEREZ OBJECTION TO THE CONFIRMATION OF
THE PUERTO RICO ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY'S PLAN OF ADJUSTMENT**

¹ The Debtors in these Title III Cases, along with each Debtor's respective Title III case number and the last four (4) digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, as applicable, are the (i) Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3283-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3481); (ii) Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation ("COFINA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3284-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 8474); (iii) Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority ("HTA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3567-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3808); (iv) Employees Retirement System of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico ("ERS") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3566-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 9686); and (v) Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority ("PREPA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 4780-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3747). (Title III case numbers are listed as Bankruptcy Case numbers due to software limitations.)

TO THE HONORABLE DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

COMES NOW VICTOR I RODRIGUEZ PEREZ, as party in interest pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 1109, appearing *pro se* pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1654, and respectfully requests that the Court deny the confirmation of the Modified Second Amended Title III Plan of Adjustment of the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, ECF No. 3296 (“Plan of Adjustment”).

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. **VICTOR I RODRIGUEZ PEREZ** is a party in interest in the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority’s (“PREPA”) Title III Bankruptcy. See 11 U.S.C. § 1109(b).
2. I, **VICTOR I RODRIGUEZ PEREZ**, am a resident of San Juan, Puerto Rico. I am 66 years old and live at 1354 Ave. Magdalena Apt 303, in the Denver Condominium, in San Juan, PR 00907. My household is of two people (me and my wife, Florenia Espinosa Carpintero). The household’s electricity bill is under my name. I am retired from the Puerto Rico Telephone Company (PRTC) and receive social security for disability, because of a fall accident at work in 2000. I worked at PRTC from 1984 until 2012. My pension (\$855.47/month) and social security benefit (\$1,935/month) are barely enough to pay my mortgage, food, telephone, and electricity expenses. These are my two only sources of income.
3. The question of who is a “party in interest” should be answered on a case-by-case basis. The definition is non-exhaustive. It generally refers to anyone with a financial stake or significant legal or practical stake in the outcome of bankruptcy. See, for example, Savage & Assocs. P.C. v. K&L Gates LLP (In re Teligent, Inc.), 640 F.3d 53 (2d Cir. 2011). That should mean anyone who will be significantly impacted.
4. **The Plan of Adjustment proposes to impose a Legacy Charge on the electric bills of residential and commercial customers for the next 35 years or more.** I am 66 years old,

my property is mortgaged for \$95,830.60 dollars, at present, with a maturity date of March 1, 2051 (28 years). My family's financial situation is very precarious. My energy bill is already much too expensive today, the Proposed Plan's electricity bill increases will severely destabilize me and my family. Last month I paid \$131.68. Under the proposed Plan, I will likely be paying \$148.46/month, which represents a 13% increase. PREPA's fiscal situation has not been my fault and should not fall on my children and grandchildren. My oldest daughter has spinocerebellar ataxia at 35 years of age. This disease has no cure and she can no longer sustain itself. She depends solely on me and my wife. Currently, I am diabetic and depressed, but that does not take away the responsibility of being a father. Any further energy expenses would make it impossible for me to sustain myself and my family, including my disabled child. Therefore, the proposed Plan will materially harm me financially, physically, and emotionally. I hope that your decision is fair in favor of the thousands of Puerto Ricans who were not guilty of the waste and mismanagement of the governments on duty.

5. Therefore, **VICTOR I RODRIGUEZ PEREZ** is a party in interest that "may raise and may appear and be heard on any issue in a case under this chapter." 11 U.S.C. § 1109(b).

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

6. For over a decade, Puerto Rico's economy has been in trouble and, by 2016, its massive debt became unsustainable. On June 30, 2016, PROMESA was signed into law. 48 U.S.C. § 2101 et seq. It created Title III to allow the territory access to bankruptcy relief for its instrumentalities. On July 2, 2017, the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico ("Oversight Board") initiated a Title III case for PREPA. On December 16, 2022, the Oversight Board filed the first *Title III Plan of Adjustment of the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority*. This has been amended 3 times. The current version of the Plan of Adjustment was

filed on March 1, 2023.

LEGAL ARGUMENT

7. Section 314 of PROMESA has the requirements for the confirmation of a Plan of Adjustment.

48 U.S.C. § 2174(b).

The Title III court shall confirm a plan of adjustment so long as certain requirements are met, including that: the debtor is not prohibited by law from taking any action necessary to carry out the plan; . . . any legislative, regulatory, or electoral approval necessary under applicable law in order to carry out any provision of the plan has been obtained, or such provision is expressly conditioned on such approval; . . . [and] the plan is feasible. Fin. Oversight & Mgmt. Bd. for P.R. v. Federacion de Maestros de P.R., Inc. (In re Fin. Oversight & Mgmt. Bd. for P.R.), 32 F.4th 67, 76 (1st Cir. 2022) (citation omitted).

8. The Plan of Adjustment is not feasible for the reasons stated in the expert declarations of Mr. Tom Sanzillo, ECF No. 3416; Dr. José I. Alameda Lozada, ECF No. 3417, Mr. Agustín Irizarry, ECF No. 3414.
9. “Under PROMESA, a plan of adjustment must be supported by financial projections that are ‘reasonable and demonstrate a probability that the debtor will be able to satisfy its obligations under the Plan.’” In re Fin. Oversight & Mgmt. Bd., 637 B.R. 223, 302-03 (D.P.R. 2022).
10. This means asking: “Is it likely that the debtor, after the confirmation of the Plan of Adjustment, will be able to sustainably provide basic municipal services to the citizens of the debtor and to meet the obligations contemplated in the Plan without the significant probability of a default?” Id.
11. The Plan of Adjustment will affect Puerto Rico’s economy and ratepayers, such as **VICTOR I RODRIGUEZ PEREZ**. Therefore, PREPA will not be able to generate enough revenue and comply with its obligations to creditors or to the people of Puerto Rico. Because of this, the Plan of Adjustment is not feasible.

CONCLUSION

12. In conclusion, this Court should not confirm the Plan of Adjustment because it does not meet the requirements under PROMESA. Additionally, the confirmation of the Plan of Adjustment would cause great prejudice to **VICTOR I RODRIGUEZ PEREZ** and the people of Puerto Rico.
13. PREPA's restructuring is very important, because electric power is necessary both for consumers and businesses alike. It is the driving force of Puerto Rico's economy. If PREPA's restructuring becomes too burdensome on the people and businesses of Puerto Rico, it will affect any possibility of economic growth and development.

RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE, VICTOR I RODRIGUEZ PEREZ, respectfully requests that the Court take notice of the above stated and deny the confirmation of the Plan of Adjustment.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this same date I conventionally filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court. A copy of this document will be emailed to case participants.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, this 8th day of June 2023.



Victor I. Rodriguez Pérez
Pro se
1354 Ave. Magdalena Apt 303
Denver Condominium
San Juan, PR 00907
vitan777@gmail.com
Tel: (787) 549-9622